

Bridging the Divide
Summer Field Camp

Dillon, Montana

Summer, 2010

Day 1- Traveling to Birch Creek

- *Drove from Shon-
Ban High to
Dillon, Montana.
It took 3 to 4 hours
to get to camp.
Then we had lunch.*
- *JUNE 28, 2010*



Day 1- Badger Pass Tipi Rings

- *Saw 3 of 6 teepee rings*
- *Possible migration Route*
- *Looked at some native plants— Bitter Root*



Small Bitterroot plant near the tipi rings



Day 1- Taylor Creek Quartzite Quarry

- *Arrow Heads were made here.*
- *More Teepee rings nearby*



*We found some more native plants-
Evening Primrose and Wild Onion*



Jordan eats wild onion



Day 1- Mill Point Hunting Blind



- *For hunting Mountain Sheep and Possibly Elk*

End of Day 1

- *Went back to camp and ate Dinner, Then went to sleep.*



June 29 Tuesday

Traditional skills with Tim Ryan

This is Tim Ryan

- He told us about the aboriginal land and foods then he started to show us of the digging stick that He had made and showed us some pictures that he had in his folder



Showing us a digging stick

- Tim shows us a digging stick and tells us about how its made and how its used in the traditional way.
- Then he told us how to pick a good stick it needs to have a slight curve on one end.



All of us working on our digging sticks



Tim showing us Dogbane

- Tim told us how to make cord from dogbane, also known as Indian hemp
- We removed the bark from the plant fibers
- Dogbane is harvested in the winter, after the plant has died.



The steps on how to make cordage

- After you pull off the bark you then roll it between your hands a couple times to start twisting the fibers.
- Then you twist away from you once then you grab the bottom with your other finger then flip over until the bottom is on top and then repeat the process



Here Tim is starting the bark basket

- We used lodge pole pine for the bark baskets.
- Tim is poking holes in the bark with a gimlet for the cordage to go through to sew it up



Different styles of baskets

- Here are some finished bark baskets that Tim had made.
- Some of the baskets that he made are in museums



Here Mark and Jordan are digging the pit for the camas.

- Mark and Jordan are digging the fire pit to harden the tips of our digging sticks.



Lined the bottom with rocks.

- We gathered granite rocks then we lined the bottom of the fire pit with the rocks
- We will use the fire pit to bake the camas bulbs we plan to dig the next day



We are done for the day

- Going in so we could eat a good meal take some showers and go to bed.



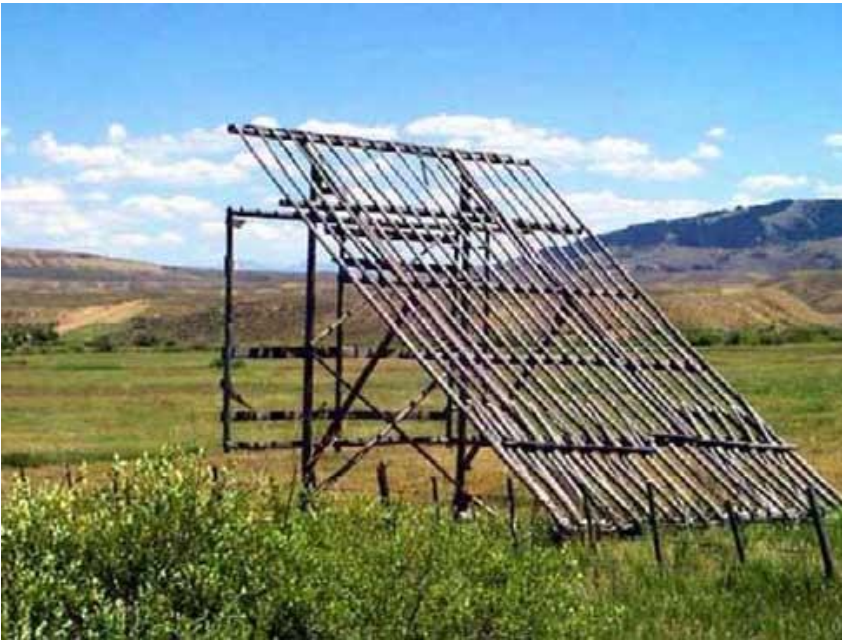
Day 3: Digging Camas Bulbs

- We traveled to Crystal Park in the Pioneer Mountains of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest
- In the meadow below the park we found camas in bloom



Day -3 Grasshopper Basin

- On the way we stopped to look at the beaver slides which were used to stack hay*



Digging Camas



- We used our digging sticks to dig camas bulbs out of the ground
- It wasn't hard, but the ground was muddy and there were too many mosquitoes!

Digging Camas



Day 3- Bannack City



- *We drove to Bannack City which is a ghost town*
- *We spent some time exploring the town.*
- *We visited the saloon where Chief Snag was scalped and shot.*

Baking camas

- We started a fire in our pit and set it up to bake our camas
- We heated up the rocks then used layers of willow, canvas and dirt to bury our camas



Baking camas

- We built a fire on top of the pit and kept it burning all night and the next day.
- Some of us slept by the fire so we could add wood all night.



End of Day-3

- *Went back to camp
ate dinner and
went to sleep*



Day 4: Big Hole

- We drove to another camas meadow in the Big Hole Valley
- We spent time doing transects where we counted all the kinds of plants inside a square
- We kept doing that all along a line



Big Hole

- We also dug more camas bulbs.
- These were bigger than the ones from Crystal Park



Baked camas

- When we got back to camp we dug our camas from the fire pit



Camas Charcoal

- It turned out that we had the fire too hot for too long and burned our camas
- Tim said the women of his tribe would say that's what happens when men try to cook.



Day 5: Crystal Park

- We went back to crystal park to do more transects in a different place.
- We wanted to compare plants in the two different places



Day-5 crystal park (soil comparison)

- We dug up holes to find the elevation of the water table.*
- Also we compared the soil to this reference book to find the soil type*



Day 5

- *She was digging up dirt and got all excited while looking at it.....*
- *She found clay and once again got all excited.*
- *She was telling us what kind of dirt there was in the ground like: clay, and mud.*



Day 5



- We did horizon box 's on the ridge
- A horizon box holds samples of the soil layers you find in a hole

The day we came home

- *The last day at camp*
- *We drove back to Fort Hall tired but happy*



The End